

REMARKS

These remarks are set forth in response to the Request for Information under 37 C.F.R. § 1.105 dated January 30, 2006.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's supervisor's (Examiner Caldwell) courtesy and professionalism in conducting a telephonic interview with the undersigned, during which the present Amendment was discussed. It is Applicants' understanding that the present Amendment will satisfy the Request for Information.

In the Request for Information, the Examiner requested Applicants "identify the structure(s) disclosed in the specification and drawings that perform the function of each and every means plus function limitation in the claims." In response, Applicants note that claims 1-7 have been cancelled, and since remaining pending claims 8-15 do not include any "means plus function" limitations, this request by the Examiner is rendered moot.

Applicants have made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art of record, and it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. However, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. Accordingly, and in view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants hereby respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Although Applicants believe that all claims are in condition for allowance, the Examiner is directed to the following statement found in M.P.E.P. § 706(II):

When an application discloses patentable subject matter and it is apparent from the claims and the applicant's arguments that the claims are intended to be directed to such patentable subject matter, but the claims in their present form cannot be allowed because of defects in form or omission of a limitation, the examiner should not stop with a bare objection or rejection of the claims. The examiner's action should be constructive in nature and when possible should offer a definite suggestion for correction.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 09-0461, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Date: February 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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